

REGINA ROMERO

Tucson City Council - Ward I

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Happy Holidays & Feliz Año Nuevo !

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The Holiday Season is the time to fill your home with joy, your heart with love and your life with peace. December is also the one-year anniversary of my election as your City Council Member and I feel very thankful and positive about the gains we have made for our community. A friend of mine reminded me of the Charles Dickens quote, "It was the best of times, It was the worst of times," and it certainly rings true in this financial crisis.

In these difficult financial times we need to work together to prioritize our needs and plan for the future. My priorities will be to protect our core services and our most vulnerable citizens—children and seniors, with KIDCO as my top priority. Please share your ideas by sending an email to ward1@tucsonaz.gov or call us at 791-4040.

The City is preparing for a federal economic stimulus package. The modern streetcar and many other street projects are ready to go and with the Rio Nuevo bonds expected to be finalized later this month, we plan to jump-start employment opportunities early next year and finalize planning for others. We are ready to take action when the funding arrives.

Each Council office received \$400,000 in "Back to Basics" funds. We are spending \$150,000 in Ward 1 to tackle Pima Council on Aging's list of elders in need of housing repair and energy assistance. We are providing matching funds for Pima County's bond-funded neighborhood reinvestment program. Dunbar Spring, Menlo Park, Barrio Kroeger Lane, Barrio Hollywood and Sunnyside neighborhoods received funds for improvements including sidewalks, paths, lights, trees, rainwater harvesting and safety improvements.

The Holiday season gives us time to reflect on what is important. I want to thank my wonderful staff and the people of Tucson for working so hard to make Tucson the wonderful community it is.

My best for 2009,

Regina Romero

December 2008 Inside this Issue

Ward 1 Year in Review 2

Ward 1 Rainwater 3

Public Safety Town Hall 3

Budget Public Hearings Set 3

Family Friendly Activities 4

City Spotlight 4

Photo Gallery 3



Mayor Bob Walkup joined Regina Romero at the Holiday tree-lighting ceremony Downtown

Ward 1 Year in Review: Neighborhoods, Kids & Parks

We wrap up our first year in office with more than 6,000 constituent phone calls and more than 5,200 hours of in-person meetings. We've attended and promoted hundreds of events to make our community safer, stronger and better, and we are committed to work even harder next year: Here's some accomplishments of your Ward 1 team:

December: A day in office and Council Member Romero is hard at work to reform KIDCO — our City's after-school program—to improve it and consider adding a school curriculum. She promotes the City's financial sustainability plan, which directs funds to police, parks and streets—including **two square miles of streets in Ward 1 that get new chip-sealing in 2008—Menlo Park, Barrio Hollywood and Panorama Estates.**

January: Ward 1 hosts the first Neighborhood Leaders' quarterly meeting with our kick-off Open House event with hundreds of constituents. Romero collaborates with the AZ Dept. of Transportation to make sure the I-10 road work won't disrupt small businesses or Tucson's world-famous Gem and Mineral Show.

February: Strong supporters of improving health care, Romero and Vice Mayor Karin Uhlich reform the City's health benefits to eliminate discrimination toward unmarried couples in committed relationships. Ward 1 celebrates its commitment to education and promotes Love of Reading Week at Lynn Urquides, Tolson, and Esperanza Schools.

March: Ward 1 joins Voices for Education to host a Town Hall at Cholla High. Our second Neighborhood Leaders meeting outlines Back to Basics funding for neighborhood improvements. Barrio Anita, Barrio Kroeger Lane, Sunnyside, Dunbar Spring and Barrio Hollywood get grants.

April: Ward 1 helps **promote the life and legacy of civil rights leader Cesar E. Chavez** as a member of the Arizona Cesar Chavez Holiday Coalition, which strives to create a paid holiday to honor his legacy.



Romero joins **Attorney General Terry Goddard** to find solutions to the burdens of the exploding costs of housing and transportation at the Fair Housing Forum.

May: Ward 1 hosts two water town halls to discuss our water future. Mayor and Council create a first-ever separate **funding source for conservation** and directs funds to low-flow toilets to low-income residents. Friends of "A" Mountain group works with Ward 1 staff to finalize a draft plan to improve Sentinel Peak Park.

June: *Ward 1 collaborates with Every Voice in Action to offer a youth internship* for ages 13-21 to decide how to spend **\$25K in City funds for youth programs**. Dozens of non-profits apply and receive funds, including the deaf and blind school for an arts festival and the Tucson High Unity festival. Ward 1 hosts the 10th annual Día de San Juan celebration to welcome the beginning of the monsoon rains—3000 people participate!

July: Romero continues to push for selling bonds using the state's tax-increment financing to jumpstart "shovel-ready" Downtown development, including Mission gardens, the Convento, the hotel and convention center, new housing and a garage near Hotel Congress, the Cushing Street bridge and more. She also pushes a proposal to encourage victims to work with police to report crimes. TPD says U-visas are an effective tool to protect victims of crime.

August: Romero works with Gadsden Company and Menlo Park to finalize development of a new infill neighborhood Downtown with 35 percent affordable and workforce housing. She supports annual National Night Out events promoting public safety in neighborhoods, making it to Sunnyside and Elvira Neighborhoods before getting rained out.

September: Council continues to get bad news about the city budget. Sales taxes are the lowest in Tucson's history and Council is forced to cut city services and funds to outside agencies. **Romero takes a strong stand on water conservation** to attempt to deny new water hookups in areas of ecological importance. Staff creates a Sonoran Desert park in front of City Hall for PARK-ing Day to bring awareness of the need for more Parks and open spaces.

October: Ward 1 hosts a Street Smarts workshop in partnership with the Meth-Free Alliance to promote and educate our residents on self defense and public safety. Ward 1 partners with Sonoran Institute and Watershed Management Group to make the Council office a demonstration site for the newly passed Rainwater Harvesting ordinance.

November: Romero works with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Women Business Owners, Local First and others to create a **small business roundtable**. **This six month task force's goal is a "to-do" list for Mayor and Council in 2009.** Our 4th neighborhood leaders meeting takes a raw look at the City budget with more than 75 people coming to hear from Romero and Supervisor Richard Elías on how to form partnerships to leverage funds.

December: **City sells \$70 million in bonds for Downtown redevelopment projects** and approves a multi-million dollar partnership with a coalition of developers to create the Historic Warehouse Arts District, improve the Rialto theater and further energize Downtown.



Save Money and Water: Free Rainwater Harvesting Workshops



David Walker & son Myles participate in the Rainwater Harvesting Workshop held at Ward 1.

Council Member Romero invites you to conserve water and energy, reduce flooding, create more green space and learn about native plants to attract butterflies and birds.

Ward 1 is partnering with Watershed Management Group and the Sonoran Institute to host public workshops to train participants about passive and active rainwater harvesting techniques to comply with the new rainwater harvesting ordinance passed by Mayor and Council October 14, 2008.

The Sonoran Institute is supporting this work with grant funds from the Environmental Protection Agency. More than 75 people from the community have participated so far. Each workshop holds 30, an RSVP is required to hold the space.

Contact Lisa Shipek at lisa@watershedmg.org or 520-396-3266 to RSVP. Participants will learn how to calculate water available from roof runoff, create a site plan and install a cistern on their property.

Please mark your calendar for the following dates. All workshops will be held at the Ward 1 Council Office located at 940 W. Alameda (corner of Grande and Alameda, west of I-10, between Congress St. & St. Mary's)

January 10— 8 a.m. to noon—Installing rainwater cisterns

January 24th— 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Integrating rainwater harvesting into parking lot design

January 17: Public Safety Town Hall with Council Member Romero

Ward 1 is hosting a **Public Safety Town Hall** on **Saturday, January 17, 2009 from 10am to Noon** at the **El Pueblo Senior Center** located at **101 W. Irvington Road**, on the southwest corner of Irvington and 6th Avenue.

The invited panel includes Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Pima County Sheriff, Pima County Attorneys Office, Peggy Hutchison of Primavera Foundation, Assistant City Manager Richard Miranda, City of Tucson Attorney's Office, Independent Police Auditor, City of Tucson Community Services Department Tucson Fire Department, Tucson Police Department Chief Kermit Miller and detectives, Gang Outreach and Enforcement units. Tucson Unified School District School Safety and Sunnyside School District Prevention/Intervention Department will also be in attendance. The Town Hall will have information tables from local agencies including Primavera, Derechos Humanos, Luz Social Services, Information & Referral Services, La Frontera Center, COPE, and SACASA. **Please come, bring a friend or neighbor, listen to the presentations and bring your questions!**



Council Member Romero received a "Woman on the Move" award from the YWCA in December. Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, another "Woman on the Move" joins Regina every year to train young women in leadership skills.

Budget Meetings Set for 2009

Mayor and Council will be getting briefings from the City Manager and Department leaders in early January. The public is invited to participate in these study sessions held at 2 p.m. at City Hall Chambers—255 W. Alameda. The public can comment on the budget and offer advice at every City Council meeting.

January 27— Revenue Estimates for 2010

February 24—Department Expenditures

March 24— Budget Balancing Measures

Please visit www.tucsonaz.gov to get updates about the budget and for the Mayor and Council meeting schedule.



Council Member Romero & Tucson author Shannon Cain celebrate Veterans' Day in Downtown Tucson's library plaza with the launch of a new book, "Powder," that brings the voice of women soldiers from Vietnam to Iraq to the public. The book is published by Kore Press, a literary-arts press in Tucson.



A look back in time, Council Member Romero at Ward 1 Open House with son Emiliano.

Family Friendly Activities Downtown

As the Mom of a young child, Council Member Romero recognizes the importance of family friendly events. The Downtown Tucson Partnership, the Downtown Merchants Association and the Metropolitan Tucson Convention and Visitors Bureau are teaming up with Mayor and Council to publicize family-friendly events in December and on Saturdays in 2009. Visit www.downtowntucson.org or www.visittucson.org for more information on all the venues and events.

- ***December 12-24: , First Annual Holiday Bazaar, Mercado San Agustin***

The Mercado San Agustín and Westside Coalition invite you to the first annual Mercado Holiday Bazaar, December 12th to the 24th. This event takes place on Congress, west of I-10 at the new street—Avenida del Convento. Come support local artists, musicians, designers, chefs and small businesses in this one-stop music concert and shopping event. Hours are Mon-Fri 2-8 pm, Sat-Sun 11am-9pm.

- ***December 20 & 27, Holiday Movies at Fox Theatre***

Bring the family to the majestic Fox Theatre for movies! December 20 at 8 pm and 10 pm is *Nightmare Before Christmas* and December 27 at 8 p.m. is *It's a Wonderful Life*. The Fox is located at 17 West Congress Street, 547-3040.

- ***December 31: 4 pm to Midnight, First Night, Downtown***

Seven locations in Downtown Tucson; Leo Rich Theatre at TCC, Scottish Rite Temple, Beowulf Alley Theatre and Tucson Children's Museum are ticketed venues featuring varied entertainment including Hispanic roots music and dance, bluegrass, jazz and world music, comedy, interactive fun for kids and adults.

City Spotlight on Firefighters Association President Roger Tamietti

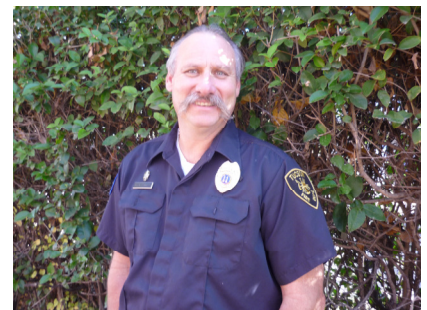
A firefighter with Tucson Fire Department (TFD) for nearly 25 years, Captain Roger Tamietti has two pieces of wisdom to offer to new recruits— enjoy your time, and do the best you can. Captain Tamietti believes a positive outlook is crucial. “Ninety-nine percent of life is attitude,” he said.

Currently based at TFD Station #11, Roger hails from Kerns, Utah, a small town outside of Salt Lake City. He came to Arizona in 1974 with his family and graduated from Sahuarita High School. Before joining TFD in 1984, Roger worked at the mines, working hard “changing tires.” He and his wife Suzanne have six children. Two sons, Dustin and Sloan, have followed Roger into firefighting and work for TFD.

As a firefighter Roger has protected citizens through fire and rain. He participated in fighting several historic blazes, including the fire that destroyed Old Tucson.

The monsoon season always brings an increased call volume, with motorists stuck in waterways, and downed power lines and power outages. He says the police and fire departments are always there to help. Elderly persons, the disabled or those who use equipment like oxygen tanks to survive are citizens who are most at risk, and need assistance. The firefighters join other first responders to save lives. One of the challenges of being a firefighter is seeing people at their best and their worst, and working hard to make things better.

Although the day will come, Roger is not looking forward to retirement. He loves his job, the excitement, and the ability to interact with the neighbors and fellow employees. “It’s rewarding.” We thank Captain Tamietti for his service to the community.



Captain Roger Tamietti, Tucson Fire Department.